

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 1-25 remain pending in the present application, including independent claims 1, 12, 13, 20 and 25. Claim 1 is directed to a device for severing and carrying a web in a web winding operation. Claim 12 is directed to a web rewinder.

Claim 13 is directed to a web severing and carrying apparatus, while claim 20 is directed to a unitary elongated mandrel for use in a web winding apparatus. Finally, claim 25 is directed to a method of severing and carrying a paper sheet in a papermaking process. Independent claims 1, 12, 20 and 25, as now amended, require that the device or apparatus including a unitary elongated mandrel that includes a plurality of spaced pins projecting from and integrated into the mandrel. As stated on page 10 of the present application, by "integrated", it is meant that the pins are not separately mountable on the mandrel, but are joined to the mandrel in a continuous, uninterrupted structure, without the necessity for mounting hardware associated with each individual pin.

As stated in the background section of the present application, in the past, bedroll blade and pin assemblies included separately mounted pin sections that had to be replaced separately. As stated on page two, when replacing pins, it is desirable to do so without adversely affecting critical setup dimensions and fine tolerances present within the bedroll assembly. By integrating a plurality of spaced pins into a unitary elongated mandrel according to the present invention, replacement of the pins becomes greatly simplified.

In the Office Action, all of the independent claims were rejected under 35 USC § 102 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,179,241 to Ba Dour, U.S. Patent Reissue No. 28,353 to Nystrand, U.S. Patent No. 3,505,150 to Andersson, or U.S. Patent No. 3,567,552 to Heuff. All of the references, however, fail to anticipate claims 1, 12, 20 and 25 as discussed in greater detail below.

For instance, Ba Dour specifically teaches mounting individual transfer pins to the bedroll assembly disclosed therein. For example, in column 3, starting at line 34, Ba Dour states:

A plurality of transfer pins 44 (FIGS. 3 and 4) are clamped to each of the transfer pin pivot shafts 42 and 43 by clamps 45. The transfer pins are spaced-apart axially along the length of the bedroll. (Emphasis added.)

Thus, as shown above, Ba Dour teaches clamping a plurality of transfer pins to the pivot shafts instead of using a unitary mandrel with integrated pins as described and claimed in the present application. As such, Applicants submit that Ba Dour fails to anticipate the currently pending claims.

Nystrand, which is cited in Ba Dour, also teaches the use of individual pin segments as shown particularly in Figure 10. As described in column 6, the clip pins 56 (which comprise a pair of pins) are boltably secured to a plate 57. As such, Nystrand also fails to anticipate the currently pending claims.

In Andersson, a plurality of teeth 61 are shown in Figure 5. As stated in column 3, after a U-shaped rail 17 and parallel to the same, a row of pointed teeth 61 are directed radially outward and are shaped as threads. Nowhere, however, does Andersson disclose a unitary elongated mandrel integrated with a plurality of spaced

pins as defined in the currently pending claims and as described in the present specification.

The remaining reference cited in the Office Action, Heuff discloses a bedroll assembly that includes a plurality of pins 48 that are attached to a backplate 17 (see Figure 3). Similar to the other references cited in the Office Action, however, Heuff fails to disclose a plurality of pins that are integrated into a unitary elongated mandrel. As such, Applicants submit that Heuff also fails to anticipate claims 1, 12, 20, 25, and the claims dependent thereon.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to independent claim 13 which claims a web severing and carrying apparatus. As defined in claim 13, the apparatus includes a unitary elongated mandrel with a pin assembly projecting therefrom. The elongated mandrel is connected to a clamp which, in turn, mounts the mandrel to a bedroll. As now amended, claim 13 requires the mandrel to be mounted to the front side of the clamp.

For purposes of explanation, enclosed as Appendix A is a copy of Figure 5 of the present application in conjunction with a conventional blade assembly. As shown, in the past, the pins were mounted to the bottom of the clamp. As shown in Figure 5, however, according to the present invention, the unitary mandrel is mounted to the front side of the clamp. As stated on page 11 of the present application, mounting the pins to the front of the clamp rather than from the bottom, reduces the time and effort required to change out worn components with new components. In fact, in the past, the clamps had to be loosened in order to remove the pins. By mounting the pins to the front of the clamp, however, the clamp does not need to be loosened in order to replace

the mandrel. In this manner, machine down time required to replace the pins is reduced along with the risk of error in setting the clearance between the pins and the mandrel.

In comparison to claim 13, none of the above cited art teaches, discloses or suggests mounting a mandrel to a front side of a clamp. As such, it is believed that claim 13 also patentably defines over the prior art of record.

In the Office Action, claims 2 and 12 were rejected for various informalities. Further, the Examiner helpfully noticed a typographical error appearing on page 11. In response, claims 2 and 12 have been amended along with the specification on page 11.

In summary, it is believed that the claims as currently pending patentably define over the prior art of record and are in complete condition for allowance. Should any issues remain after consideration of this amendment, however, then Examiner Rivera is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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9/2/03
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